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Kearsley Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Public Health Inspector

1959



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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector F. BROOK, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk Mrs. J. CROMPTON

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council
MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health of the district, together with the Report of the Public Health Inspector, for the year 1959.

The population of 10,400 (estimated) has shown a slight decline during the last ten years when in 1949 it was 10,640.

For the fifth time during the last ten years the Death Rate has exceeded the Birth Rate, but the average for the ten years shows a Birth Rate of approximately 16.2 against a Death Rate of 15.6.

In the causes of death, Heart Disease and Cancer claim the most victims, and the figures for the last ten years are given below.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Heart Disease ..	57	69	63	37	48	44	45	38	57	42	37
Cancer (all forms)	18	23	21	21	23	19	26	11	18	25	23
Bronchitis	17	12	20	8	12	16	17	12	6	4	6

There are still too many deaths from heart disease and most of these are due to the stress of living. Overworking the human engine whether at work or play is the cause. Youth perhaps can undertake extreme exertion without damage, but when middle age is attained life should become more gentle and easy going. Cancer accounts for 23 deaths this year, and of these, eight (seven males and one female) were due to lung cancer. The figures for Bronchitis deaths are referred to under "Clean Air".

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

WHOOPING COUGH

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
55	32	98	18	39	59	10	47	23	21	10

Beyond a mild measles epidemic there is little of note in the infections of the year. The figures given for notifications of Whooping Cough for the last ten years are of interest. The County Council introduced Whooping Cough immunisation in April, 1955. A period of five years is much too early to dogmatise about the results, however, it is pleasing to note that never before have we had three years together with so low an incidence of Whooping Cough. This can be regarded as a promise of success but no more. In ten years time we will be better able to judge.

HOUSING

There were 14 new houses erected during the year, nine by the local authority, and there were 41 houses demolished as unfit for human habitation. Under the Council's five year plan there are still 113 to be demolished.

CLEAN AIR.

The area is to be divided into 15 districts and each in turn will be converted to smoke control areas. Impure air is responsible in some degree for the Bronchitis which tends to become chronic late in life. The figures given for the past ten years show that Bronchitis is responsible for most of the deaths due to respiratory defects. Impure air causes an irritation of the bronchi and is responsible for the chronic catarrh from which over ninety per cent of the people living in industrial Lancashire suffer.

Perhaps a speeding up of the clean air action in the area may bring great results in the alleviation of these complaints.

I am indebted to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for all the help and encouragement given and to the staff for their loyal co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area—1,728 statute acres (approx.).

Population—Estimated June, 1959—10,400.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Births:					Total	Males	Females
Legitimate					136	59	77
Illegitimate					4	2	2
Still Births:							
Legitimate					2	2	—
Illegitimate					—	—	—

	Kearsley	England & Wales	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	13.5	16.5	
Still Births per 1,000 total births ...	14.1	20.7	
	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	127	56	71
	Kearsley	England & Wales	
Death Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	14.3	11.6	
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth	Nil		
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:			
	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	Nil	—	—
	Kearsley	England & Wales	
Infantile Mortality Rate for 1,000 live births	21.4	22.0	
		Total	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			23
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1959

Tuberculosis, respiratory	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	25
Heart Diseases	37
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	5
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	7
Bronchitis	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6
Cancer	23
Diabetes	1
Leukemia	2
Motor Vehicles Accidents	2
All other Accidents	3
Homicide and operations of war	1
Total ...	127

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a list of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1959:—

Disease	No.
Scarlet Fever	28
Whooping Cough	10
Dysentery	18
Erysipelas	1
Measles	114
Pneumonia (all forms)	12
Poliomyelitis	1

Cases removed to Hospital from the district:—

Scarlet Fever	5
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Tuberculosis—Cases Notified:—

Respiratory	4
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The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

FOOD POISONING

During the year there were no cases of Food Poisoning reported.

SCARLET FEVER

Twenty-eight cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the year, and all but five of these were nursed at home.

DIPHTHERIA

For the thirteenth year in succession there were no cases of Diphtheria.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The bacteriological examination of sputum is undertaken by the Lancashire Tuberculosis Committee.

The bacteriological examination of milk and water samples and of pathological specimens is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary.

WATER SUPPLY

The greater part of the water supply to the Urban area is from the Bolton Corporation. This is a direct and constant supply and is sufficient in quantity and quality.

The Irwell Valley Water Board supplies the area of Prestolee and Ringley with a direct and constant supply and this is sufficient in quantity and quality.

There are four houses, with a population of 12, in the outlying district known as Giant's Seat, dependent on well water, which is not a connected supply.

The following is a summary of results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc., supplied by Bolton Corporation Water Works Department and Irwell Valley Water Board: —

	Bolton Corporation	Irwell Valley Water Board
No. of bacteriological examinations of raw water	100	45
Results	Satisfactory with treatment	Unsatisfactory without treatment
No. of chemical analyses	8	10
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Water going into supply where treatment is installed :—		
No. of bacteriological examinations	100	45
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
No. of chemical analyses	8	10
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Action taken in respect of any form of contamination	Action not necessary	All water chlorinated
Liability to plumbo-solvent action	From tests made weekly the water was shown to have no plumbo-solvent action.	Yes
Analyses of plumbo-solvent action	—	45
Results	—	Mainly satisfactory Precautions— Water Lime-treated.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(1)	By the local authority	...	...	...	9 Houses
(2)	By other local authorities	...	...	...	—
(3)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	5 Houses

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	30
	(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	... ..	60
(2)		Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:—		
	(a)	No. found during the year	...	3
	(b)	No. (or estimated No.) at end of year	... ..	76
(3)		No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	...	27

2. Houses Demolished:—

In Clearance Areas:—

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons Families	
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	36	21	8
(2) Houses included by bad arrangement, etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
Not in Clearance Areas:—			

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	5	3	1
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3. Unfit Houses Closed:—

Number

(1) Under Section 16(4), 17(1), and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	1	4	1
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—	—

4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied:—

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority ...	29	—
(2) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	1	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	—	—
(3) Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—

5 Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—

Improvement grants, etc. :—

Action during the year :—

	Schemes of Private Bodies or Individuals				Schemes of Local Authority
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority				18	—
(b) No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected				18	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry				—	—
(d) Work completed				11	—
(e) Any other action taken under the Acts (Give brief particulars.)					

The Council also makes loans under the above provisions for the construction, acquisition, improvement and repair of houses.

6. Housing Conditions :—

Approximately 36 per cent. of the houses in Kearsley may be classed as old, 19 per cent. as medium and 45 per cent. as modern.

There are only a few families in lodgings who really need housing.

Particulars of any housing scheme—

- (i) In hand at end of year :—
None.

Report of the Public Health Inspector



NOTICES

Twenty-one preliminary notices were served during the year.

HOUSE REFUSE SCAVENGING

Statement showing the number of receptacles emptied during the year:—

Privy middens	...	...	...	2
Ashbins	...	...	...	194,411
Pails	...	...	...	149
Total loads removed	...	...	...	2,812

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Singing Clough Tip. This method continues to be most satisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary accommodation of the district at the end of the year was as follows:—

Fresh water closets	...	...	3,681
Waste water closets	...	...	47
Ashbins	...	...	3,880
Pails	...	...	5
Privy middens	...	...	1
Privy closets	..	...	1

SALVAGE

The collection and sale of salvage continues to be successful. During the year under review the combined weight of salvage collected was 204 tons 8 cwts. 1 qtr., made up as follows:—

	T.	C.	Q.
Waste Paper	128	8	3
Kitchen Waste	25	9	2
Miscellaneous	50	10	0

The total value was £1,152.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Drainage is partly on the combined and partly on the separate system. The following summary shows how the sewage is dealt with:—

Sewage Works.	Method of Treatment.
Clammerclough	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Main Outfall, Kearley Green	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Ringley	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Prestolee	Detritus tanks, aeration tanks, humus tanks and storm tanks.

At Horridge Brook and Unity Brook the sewage is lifted by automatic ejectors into sewers connected with the Main Outfall Works.

The Bolton and District Joint Sewerage Board is still working on the construction of new Trunk Sewers.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS

The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops have been inspected on 22 occasions, and their conditions were satisfactory.

During the year 9 samples of milk were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for tubercule baccilli examination. The results of the examinations showed that all the samples were negative.

ICE CREAM

Four shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There are now 44 shops in the urban district registered for the sale of ice cream.

Sixteen samples of ice cream were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for bacteriological examination, and the results were satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the year the following food was found to be unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered by the owners:—

Tinned Plums, 6½ lbs.
Tinned Boiled Ham, 7 lbs.
Beef, 7 lbs.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

A total of fifty samples was obtained during the year, thirty-four being of milk and sixteen others comprising:—

- 2 Soup—canned.
- 1 Sauce.
- 2 Fish—canned.
- 2 Fruit—canned.
- 1 Flour—confectionery.
- 3 Bread.
- 2 Butter.
- 1 Boracic Ointment.
- 1 Epsom Salts.
- 1 Calcium Gluconate Tablets.

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of one, details of which are given below:—

<i>Type</i>	<i>Results of Analysis</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Milk.	10% Deficient in Fat.	Farmer communicated with.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES

During the year forty-three visits were paid to factories and workplaces, and forty visits to Bakehouses.

The premises were in a satisfactory condition.

ERADICTION OF BED BUGS

There were two cases of bed bugs found during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

One man is engaged solely on this work.

Two sewer maintenance treatments have been carried out during the year.

The following action relating to rodent control has also been carried out:—

	Type of Property		
	Non-agricultural Dwelling Houses	All Other	Agricultural
(a) No of properties in the district	3,465	557	12
(b) No. of properties inspected ...	380	210	12
(c) Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections)	1,531	847	79
(d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be in- fested by:			
Rats—major	—	—	1
Rats—minor	45	17	—
Mice—major	—	—	—
Mice—minor	13	7	—
(e) No. of infested properties treated	58	24	—
(f) Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments)	58	24	—
(g) No. of 'Block' control schemes carried out	21	—	—

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1st January, 1959, to 31st December, 1959

Visits to Infectious Diseases	28
Visits to Property Under Notice	350
Visits to Factories and Workplaces	43
Visits to Bakehouses	40
Visits to Shops	68
Visits to Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	22
Interviews with Owners, Builders, Architects, etc.	50
Inspections of Drains, ec., and Works in Progress	216
Housing Inspections	4
General Visits—no nuisances	900
	<hr/> 1,721 <hr/>

